

Jonny Cash

Name.....date.....

To date he has sold over 90 million albums. Cash Loch in Scotland is an echo of his ancestry. He was born in Arkansas in USA. He worked hard and sang in the cotton fields when he was young and his family was relatively poor. He loved gospel music and his first album was *My Mothers Hymn Book*. He was discharged from the air force and married his first wife, but drug and alcohol abuse brought the marriage to an end. He used the drugs to stay awake during his tours. In 1968 he was dramatically born again and got free of drugs. He wrote songs to support the cause of American Indians and had empathy for prisoners. His albums at Folsom prison and San Quentin jail made him famous in the pop world enabling him to go beyond County music which had been his main style. He became known as “the man in black” because he didn’t wear the loud clothing style of other country artists. He was a good friend of evangelist Billy Graham and co wrote *Jesus: The Gospel Road* which was a successful movie. He was a friend of the Presidents and toured with his group *The Highwaymen* and enjoyed great success. While undergoing heart surgery he had a powerful vision of heaven. He has featured in *The Muppets*, and *The Simpsons*, recorded with a Christian punk band and U2. His legacy to music is huge. He died in 2003 a man of strong faith.

A movie of his life won academy awards and great acclaim, try to view it: <http://www.walkthelinedvd.com/> You can read more of his life on this site [/www.countrymusichalloffame.com](http://www.countrymusichalloffame.com) or in his autobiography, *Cash: The Autobiography*



1. “I am not a Christian artist; I am an artist who is a Christian.” What does Johnny Cash mean by this comment?
2. Name some other really famous country artists.
3. Australia’s most famous country singer was Slim D_____

4. "How well I have learned that there is no fence to sit on between heaven and hell. There is a deep, wide gulf, a chasm, and in that chasm is no place for any man." Paraphrase what he is saying here. (Luke 16:19-31)
5. Johnny Cash had a strong faith that enabled him to speak of lonesomeness, need and vulnerability—something men and macho cowboys in particular don't like to share with others. What is the stereotype for a male country and western musical performer?
6. Cash presented himself as an outlaw and sang in prisons and all sorts of challenging places. Being a Christian isn't for sissies," Cash said once. "It takes a real man to live for God—a lot more man than to live for the devil, you know? If you really want to live right these days, you gotta be tough." Why do some musicians present Christians as being soft and not real in their music?
7. Look at some of the lyrics Johnny Cash wrote. Comment on them. Go on to Youtube and look at him perform.